

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 SAJ-01 MBFR-03 ACDA-19 GAC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 CIEP-02 STR-08 CEA-02 OMB-01

RSR-01 /172 W

----- 031399

P R 251840 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9536

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION USNATO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FURTHER FRENCH COMMENT ON KISSINGER ADDRESS

1. SUMMARY: SECOND- DAY PRESS TREATMENT OF KISSINGER PROPOSALS IS MARKEDLY CRITICAL. FAVORABLE MENTION OF SPEECH' S " INTELLECTUAL OPENING" AND OF ITS COVERAGE OF ALL ESSENTIAL SUBJECTS APPEARS IN SOME COMMENTARIES, AND FRANK INTEREST WITH WHICH IT HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN WESTERN CAPITALS IS NOTED; GAULLIST PAPER EVEN
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SAID PROPOSALS MERIT CLOSE STUDY, AND ONE OR TWO HEADLINES CREDITED PRESIDENT WITH ATTEMPTING, AS FRANCE- SOIR PUT IT, TO " ALLEVIATE U. S.- EUROPEAN MALAISE". BUT COMBAT LABELED PROPOSALS AS EVIDENCE OF " CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD MERCANTILISM"; GUALLIST LA NATION ASKED IF THEY ARE NOT " JUST AN INSTRUMENT OF AMERICAN DIPLOMACY"; AND FIGARO JOINED OTHER OBSERVERS IN DISPUTING KISSINGER CONCEPT OF U. S. GLOBAL INTERESTS VERSUS EUROPEAN REGIONAL INTERESTS, WONDERING IF WASHINGTON INTENDS TO " DILUTE" EUROPE IN A GREATER ALLIANCE. SECOND- HAND REPORT OF FONMIN' S REACTION WAS MORE POSITIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SECOND- DAY FRENCH PRESS COMMENTARY ON KISSINGER SPEECH, A FEW POSITIVE IF FRAGMENTARY NOTES WERE SOUNDED. THERE WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, SOME APPROVAL OF " A REFLECTIVE AND AMBITIOUS" SPEECH THAT GAVE IMPRESSION OF " INTELLECTUAL OPENING AND OF IMAGINATION", IN WORDS OF FIGARO, WHICH ADDED THAT GOF " CAN ONLY APPROVE GUIDING IDEA OF SPEECH WHICH UNDERLINES NECESSITY OF PERMANENT, GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS AT HIGHEST LEVEL TO RESOLVE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY PROBLEMS". LES ECHOS TOUCHED ON SAME THEME, NOTING THAT FIRST PARIS REACTIONS FROM " QUALIFIED OBSERVERS" SHOWS HOW RECEPTIVE THEY ARE TO " INTELLECTUAL OPENING" OF SPEECH, WHICH HAD MERIT OF TREATING " ALL ESSENTIAL SUBJECTS". FRANCE- SOIR HEADLINED THAT PRESIDENT IS TRYING TO " ALLEVIATE U. S.- EUROPEAN MALAISE", AND IDEA POSSIBLY ECHOED IN TELEVISED COMMENT BY RAYMOND ARON, WHO SAID " NIXON' S AMBITION IS TO CREATE SATISFACTORY BASIS FOR THE FUTURE".

3. MOST PAPERS ALSO TOOK NOTE OF HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST WITH WHICH SPEECH HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN WESTERN CAPITALS, AND NONE FAILED TO CONTRAST " FAVORABLE" REACTIONS IN LONDON AND BONN WITH " CIRCUMSPECTION" IN PARIS.

4. DESPITE SUCH FAVORABLE MENTIONS, HOWEVER, PREPONDERANCE OF COMMENTARY IS DISTINCTLY CRITICAL. A CHIEF QUARREL WAS WITH CHARACTERIZATION OF EUROPEAN INTERESTS AS REGIONAL IN CONTRAST TO GLOBAL INTERESTS OF U. S. EUROPEANS, SAID LA NATION, THINK THAT EEC OF TODAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND EUROPEAN UNION OF TOMORROW " HAVE AND WILL INCREASINGLY HAVE WORLD RESPONSIBILITIES, AS MUCH FOR THIRD WORLD AS FOR CHINA, OR JAPAN, OR... SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

5. ANOTHER CONCERN OF FRENCH OBSERVERS WAS U. S. INTENTIONS TOWARD EUROPE ITSELF. " IS IT MR. NIXON' S INTENTION",

ASKED FIGARO, TO IGNORE THE PERSONALITY THE EEC HAS
 ACQUIRED AND WHICH IT INTENDS TO ASSERT IN CREATING THE
 INSTITUTIONAL MEANS PERMITTING CREATION OF REAL
 POLITICAL UNION? IS WASHINGTON THINKING OF DILUTING
 EUROPE IN THE VAST ALLIANCE IT IS PROPOSING? THESE ARE
 GRAVE QUESTIONS WHICH..... POMPIDOU IS CERTAIN TO ASK
 PRESIDENT NIXON". LES ECHOS JOINED FIGARO IN EXPRESSING
 FEAR THAT, IN KISSINGER CONCEPT, EUROPE DOES NOT SEEM TO
 HAVE REAL AUTONOMY. LA NATION WAS MOST CATEGORIC OF
 ALL. KISSINGER " INVITATION TO HARMONIZE VIEWS" WAS
 ACCOMPANIED BY ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONCESSIONS BY U. S. TO
 ASSIST IN PURSUIT OF EUROPEAN UNITY, SAID FRONT- PAGE
 COMMENT BY POLITICAL DIRECTOR MICHEL HABIB- DELONCLE.
 " BUT THIS SHOWS CLEARLY THAT U. S. INTENDS EXERT DIRECT
 INFLUENCE ON RHYTHM OF LONG MARCH EUROPE IS BEGINNING
 TOWARD UNITY. BY SAME TOKEN U. S. INTENDS PRESERVE ITS
 HIGH HAND IN WHAT INTERESTS IT MOST--- SUMMIT DIALOGUE
 WITH SOVIET UNION.... FACT THAT KISSINGER WELCOMES WITH
 PLEASURE PARTICIPATION OF OUR FRIENDS IN EAST- WEST
 DIALOGUE, DEMONSTRATES THAT AMERICANS CONSIDER THEMSELVES
 PRIVILEGED INTERLOCUTORS WITH MOSCOW". HABIB- DELONCLE
 SAID THIS IS " NOT AT ALL" WHAT EUROPEANS FEEL ABOUT
 BUILDING OF EUROPE AND ITS ROLE. MARCH TOWARD UNITY,
 HE WROTE, SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON AMERICAN GOOD WILL OR ILL
 WILL. TOO STRONG A PRESSURE BY U. S. ON EUROPE WILL BE

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 ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 SAJ-01 MBFR-03 ACDA-19 GAC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-20 CIEP-02 STR-08 CEA-02 OMB-01

RSR-01 /172 W
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P R 251840 Z APR 73
 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9537
 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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" GRAVE TEST" FOR EUROPEANS, HE SAID. PRESENCE OF
U. S. FORCES IN EUROPE, HE WROTE, CORRESPONDS ABOVE ALL
TO STRATEGIC INTERESTS OF U. S. AND SHOULD NOT BE
" OBJECT OF BARGAINING" TO SELL BIGGER SHARE OF U. S.
FARM PRODUCE IN EUROPE. (HABIB- DELONCLE TOLD US AT
LUNCH THAT HIS FURTHER COMMENT THAT KISSINGER PROPOSALS
WERE " NOT EXACTLY NEW" WAS BASED ON HIS PARTICIPATION
IN RECENT NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OF NINE (CHAIRED
BY SEN. JAVITS) DELIBERATIONS WHICH PRODUCED COMMUNIQUE
FORESHADOWING KISSINGER CONCEPTIONS.)

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6. COMMENTATORS' VIEWS OF OVERALL U. S. DESIGN AS EXPRESSED
IN SPEECH WERE ALSO CRITICAL. FOR COMBAT, GUIDING THEME
OF NEW " ATLANTIC CHARTER" IS THAT EUROPE MUST " GIVE AND
GIVE". SIX POINTS OF KISSINGER TEXT ARE TESTIMONY
TO " CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD MERCANTILISM", PAPER SAID, CITING
AS ONE EXAMPLE U. S. INSISTENCE THAT EUROPEANS INCREASE
THEIR SHARE OF DEFENSE BURDEN IN RETURN FOR CERTITUDE
THAT U. S. WILL NOT REDUCE ITS FORCES IN EUROPE. BUT THIS
ALSO REQUIRES, IT SAID, THAT EUROPEANS ' TAKE AMERICAN
INTERESTS SERIOUSLY', WHICH FOR COMBAT MEANS COMMERCIAL
INTERESTS. LES ECHOS ON THIS SUBJECT WAS MORE DIRECT:
" AMERICAN PRESIDENT INTENDS", IT DECLARED, " TO PROFIT
FROM POSITION OF MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC STRENGTH
IN EUROPE TO REALIZE SOME OF ITS DEMANDS, IN TRADE
MATTERS AS IN MONETARY AFFAIRS". LA NATION' S HEADLINE
(OVER HABIB- DELONCLE COMMENTARY) ASKED WHETHER
KISSINGER PROPOSALS ARE NOT MERELY INSTRUMENT OF
AMERICAN DIPLOMACY, AND ARTICLE ENDED BY DESCRIBING
U. S. INITIATIVE AS " IN APPEARANCES, ONLY AN OFFENSIVE
OF CHARM".

7. GERMAN MINISTER BLOMEYER TOLD DCM THAT HIS AMBASSA-
DOR HAD ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT APRIL 24 FOR HIS
REACTION. JOBERT REPORTEDLY REPLIED SPEECH WAS AN
" OUVERTURE", A TERM WHICH BLOMEYER CONSIDERED SURPRISINGLY
POSITIVE. HE ASKED IF FRENCH HAD BEEN CONSULTED ON SPEECH

IN ADVANCE, TO WHICH DCM REPLIED THAT, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE,
NO SUCH ADVANCE CONSULTATION HAD OCCURRED THOUGH TEXT
HAD BEEN FURNISHED THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN ADVANCE OF
DELIVERY AS WE ASSUME HAD ALSO BEEN DONE IN BONN.

8. FYI: WE HAVE REPORT OF STORY IN BRITISH PRESS
QUOTING FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL THAT QUAI HAD
NOT YET BEEN FURNISHED TEXT OF SPEECH. WE HAND-
DELIVERED COPIES OF ENGLISH TEXT TO JOBERT APRIL 23
AND TO OTHER OFFICIALS AT QUAI, MATIGONON AND ELYSEE
NEXT DAY. FRENCH VERSIONS WERE DELIVERED TO ALL OF
THESE MORNING OF APRIL 25.
IRWIN

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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THE HAGUE
TOKYO

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